

**REMARKS:**

Claims 12-23 are in the case and presented for consideration.

The Office has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84 (p)(4) because reference character 11 was used to designate a communication device and a subscriber line in the specification, and a subscriber device in claim 12. Applicant thanks the Office for pointing out these inconsistencies. The specification has been amended at page 4, line 13 to change "subscriber lines 11" to "subscriber lines 12." Subscriber lines are associated with the reference number 12 throughout the specification and thus no new matter is added. Furthermore, applicant agrees that the "subscriber device" recited in claim 12 corresponds to the communication terminal in the specification. Thus, applicant has amended claim 12 to recite a communication terminal instead of a subscriber device. This correction was made only for the purpose of clarification and not for overcoming the prior art. Therefore, the objection to the drawings is overcome, and so no revised drawings are required.

Claim 19 was objected to for insufficient antecedent basis in the recitation of "the service identification number". Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 18, which recites "a service identification number." Claim 19 has been drafted to avoid the objection and is believed to be in proper form.

The Office has further objected to the statement in the specification beginning at page 9, line 18. Applicant has deleted second full paragraph on page 9, thereby removing the objected statement.

The Office has rejected claims 12, 13, 15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,233,234 to Curry et al.

Applicant has amended claim 12 for the purpose of clarification and not for

overcoming the prior art.

In applicant's claimed invention, a subscriber line is connected with a LAN which in turn is associated with a subscriber switching system or subscriber switching exchange located at a subscriber switching station or local station and has at least one information providing server connected thereto. There is no telephone switching system between the subscriber line and the LAN. In the claimed configuration, the LAN and the subscriber line function as information transmission media for a community network. Each subscriber switching system or local station covers a subscriber area of several miles. Thus, the server associated with each switching system can provide people of the corresponding community with information preferably related to the community independent of other switching system areas.

The purpose of the present invention is to provide a community network for people who live or work within a local station service area using subscriber lines and a LAN associated with a subscriber switching system or local station. This is achieved partly because the information transmitted from the information providing server only reaches those subscribers located in the corresponding subscriber switching system. If a subscriber is located outside the subscriber switching system where the information providing server is located, they cannot receive the local community information from the server for that subscriber switching system. Therefore, the invention easily provides selective transmission of community-oriented information to only those people who are living or working in the limited area served by the particular subscriber switching system.

In the case of the mobile system recited in claim 22, only users of the mobile switching station will receive the information from the server associated with that mobile switching station.

An alternative to the invention is to create a community network using optical fibers distributed over a community or with fixed wireless communications devices located around a community. But, these options are very expensive. In contrast, the claimed invention provides a simple system for creating a community network using conventional subscriber lines.

Applicant submits that Curry '234 fails to teach or suggest several limitations recited in claim 12. First, Curry '234 fails to teach or suggest "a subscriber switching system provided at a subscriber switching station."

The Office states that Curry discloses "a subscriber switching system (PBX) provided at a subscriber switching station (10) for exchanging telephone calls (telephony link, col. 1 line 50 and abstract)." However, the Curry '234 specification states that "intra-company telephone service is provided via the multi-site PBX network" and "These PBXs serve the internal telephone stations 30A, B, and C, and 32A, B, and C, respectively to provide both internal and external telephone service to the sites A and B." According to the claimed invention, the "subscriber switching system" is a public switching system which directly connects to connection terminals or telephones. By contrast, the PBX in the Curry '234 patent is located in an internal or private user area.

Second, Curry '234 fails to teach or suggest "a LAN associated with the subscriber switching system," as recited in claim 12.

As explained above, the PBX is not a subscriber switching system. Although the CO (Central Office) 18, 20, and 64 in Fig. 1 of Curry '234 may be a subscriber switching system according to claim 12, the LAN 38 is not associated with the CO 18, 20, 64.

Next, Curry '234 fails to teach or suggest the limitation of "the common terminal point and the second branching terminal point being used in combination for establishing

a second path for data communications transferred over the LAN." The Office has defined trunks 14 and 16 as a common terminal point and LAN 38 connected to respective PBXs as a second branching terminal point.

Initially, applicant notes that reference numerals 14, 16, and 12 are missing from Fig. 1. Applicant has enclosed a copy of Fig. 1 of the Curry '234 patent, marked up with reference numerals 14, 16, 12, only for the purpose of assisting the Office in understanding applicant's remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that the trunks 14, 16 are not used in combination with the LAN 38 connected to the respective PBX's, to establish a second path for data communications. If the trunk 14, 16 were connected to the LAN 38, the trunk 14, 16 would cause destructive cross talks with each other through the LAN 38, and the LAN interface 40, 42 would not be needed between PBX 26, 28 and LAN 38. In col. 13, lines 49-65, the specification states the "the business establishment of the lines or trunks 14 and 16 are connected to PBXs" and that "The LAN 38 is connected to the respective PBXs through LAN interface cards or units 40 and 42." These are two separate connections. Their combination does not produce any single second path for data communications. In fact, they cannot be combined at all to produce any data communication due to the destructive nature of such a combination.

Finally, Curry '234 fails to teach or suggest "at least one information providing server connected to and associated with the LAN."

The Office refers to Fig. 6 as describing this limitation. However, Fig. 6 only shows LAN server or router 55, which interfaces the LAN and the internet, according to column 18, lines 26-18. There is no teaching or suggestion that the LAN server or router is an information providing server.

Therefore, claim 12 is believed to be patentable. Claims 13, 15, and 20 depend from claim 12, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons as explained above for claim 12.

The Office has rejected claim 14 as being obvious from Curry '234 in view of U.S. Patent 6,574,628 to Kahn et al.

Applicant traverses the Office's obviousness rejection for the same reasons as stated above in response to the Office's §102(e) rejection. Curry '234 is cited as the primary reference. Curry '234 fails to teach or suggest several limitations of claim 12 as explained above. Therefore, Curry '234 also fails to teach or suggest the same limitations in dependent claim 14.

Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from Curry '234 in view of U.S. Patent 6,349,096 to Lieu et al.

Applicant traverses the Office's obviousness rejection for the same reasons as stated above in response to the Office's §102(e) rejection.

Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from Curry '234 in view of U.S. Patent 5,796,393 to MacNaughton et al.

Applicant traverses the Office's obviousness rejection for the same reasons as stated above in response to the Office's §102(e) rejection.

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from Curry '234 in view of U.S. Patent 6,021,120 to Beyda et al.

Applicant traverses the Office's obviousness rejection for the same reasons as stated above in response to the Office's §102(e) rejection.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious from Curry '234 in view of U.S. Patent 6,721,306 to Farris et al.

Applicant traverses the Office's obviousness rejection for the same reasons as stated above in response to the Office's §102(e) rejection. Applicant has amended claim 22 only for clarification purposes and not to overcome the prior art.


Finally, applicant has added new claim 23, which recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 12 and newly recites "at least one communication terminal separate from and connected to the subscriber switching station." Claim 23 is believed to be patentable for the same reasons as stated above in response to the Office's §102(e) rejection.

Accordingly, the application and claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

If any issues remain which may be resolved by telephonic communication, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the number below, if such will advance the application to allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Yan Glickberg  
Reg. No. 51,742  
Attorney for Applicant  
(845) 359-7700

YG  
Enc.

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**NOTARO & MICHALOS P.C.**  
100 Dutch Hill Road  
Suite 110  
Orangeburg, New York 10962-2100

**Customer No. 21706**